

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF

**Environmental
Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only</i> Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: 14182
MEPA Analyst: Bill GAGE
Phone: 617-626-1025

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Plymouth Inner Harbor Dredging		
Street: Plymouth Harbor		
Municipality: Plymouth	Watershed: Cape cod Bay	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 362329 4646356	Latitude: 41° 57' 33" N Longitude: 70° 39' 40" W	
Estimated commencement date: October 2008	Estimated completion date: February 2008	
Approximate cost: \$2,700,000	Status of project design: 70 %complete	
Proponent: Town of Plymouth		
Street: 11 Lincoln Street		
Municipality: Plymouth	State: MA	Zip Code: 02360
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Christine Player		
Firm/Agency: Vine Associates, Inc.	Street: 190 Old Derby Street	
Municipality: Hingham	State: MA	Zip Code: 02043
Phone: 782-749-2530 x202	Fax: 781-749-2751	E-mail: cplayer@vineassociates.net

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. 5423 _____) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres):

MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (75% of total project costs to be requested)

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

USACE permit; CZM Federal Consistency; Order of Conditions from Plymouth Conservation Commission

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Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> > Chapter 91 permit
Total site acreage	12.4 acres to be dredged			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		539,138 sf Land Under Ocean		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify EH 740; PH 125) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

The Town of Plymouth (Town) proposes to implement a dredging program for Plymouth Harbor which involves both maintenance and improvement dredging within the inner harbor (see Attachment 1, U.S.G.S. Topographic Map). The project is required to address significant shoaling, to restore and improve navigation and to more efficiently manage existing mooring and docking space within the inner harbor. All dredging is proposed to be conducted by mechanical means, with unconfined off-shore disposal of sediments at the Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site (MBDS). The biological testing of sediments is presently on-going. It is anticipated that dredge sediments will be deemed suitable by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for unconfined offshore disposal.

A pre-application meeting was held in November 2005 with state and federal agencies to discuss the Town's proposed dredging project. Since that meeting, a number of changes have been made to the project now being proposed. The Town is no longer considering dredging as it would be required to support a future public marina facility in the inner harbor at this time. Additionally, all previously proposed intertidal dredging has been eliminated, and all dredging will occur within Land Under the Ocean (LUO). Also, the dredging that was previously proposed around the area of the T-Wharf will now be permitted as part of the T-Wharf Reconstruction Project, which is currently under agency review (EOEEA #14139). It is anticipated that all construction costs pertaining to the dredging of the inner harbor will be supported by the allocation of both local and state funding.

The proposed project consists of both maintenance and improvement dredging from within three (3) general areas of the harbor, identified as Areas 1 through 3. The total combined dredging footprint proposed under this plan consists of approximately 12.4 acres (539,138 square feet (SF)), resulting in an estimated total volume of approximately 66,100 cubic yards (CY) of material. Area 1 consists of an existing 6-foot deep mooring basin located north of Brewer's Marina and the Plymouth Yacht Club. The total dredge footprint for Area 1 is 5.7 acres (248,139 SF), including side slopes. The basin will be dredged to elevation -6.0 Mean Low Water (MLW) with an allowable 1-foot overdredge, for an estimated total volume of 31,800 CY. Area 2 consists of an existing 8-foot deep mooring basin located between State Pier and Brewer's Marina. The total dredge footprint for Area 2 consists of 4.5 acres (196,579 SF), including side slopes. The basin will be dredged to elevation -8.0 MLW with an allowable 1-foot overdredge, for an estimated total volume of 21,600 CY. Area 3

consists of an existing anchorage area at Town Pier and will be dredged to elevation -12.0 MLW. The dredge footprint for Area 3 consists of approximately 2.2 acres (94,420 SF), including side slopes. The estimated total volume proposed to be dredged from Area 3 is 12,700 CY, including a 1-foot allowable overdredge.

Impacts to marine fisheries will be minimized by application of a dredging window that would avoid the most sensitive times of the year (February 16 through September 15) in order to avoid the winter flounder spawning season and juvenile recruitment.

Other alternatives that have been considered for this project include the “No-dredge” alternative, limited maintenance dredging and a larger dredging footprint with maintenance and improvement dredging as required to support a new public marina. Alternative dredging methods and disposal options were also considered. These alternatives, and other additional aspects pertaining to this project are described in greater detail in Attachment 3 (Project Narrative)